

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-9, 11-16 and 18-23 are now present in the application. Claims 1, 12, 15 and 21-23 have been amended. Claims 10 and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 12, 15 and 21-23 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 10, 17 and 21-23 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant greatly appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

By the present amendment, independent claims 1, 12 and 15 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 10, 10 and 17, respectively; claims 21-23 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim 15.

Accordingly, it is believed that independent claims 1, 12, 15 and 21-23 are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-9, 11-16 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Zeighami, U.S. Patent No. 6,508,621. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As mentioned, it is believed amended independent claims 1, 12 and 15 are in condition for allowance because those claims have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 10, 10 and 17, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 12 and 15 and their dependent claims clearly define over the teachings of the references relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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